PROJECT TITLE : Pilot Plant Operations

PERIOD COVERED : January 1st - 26th, 1981

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1. EQUIPMENT

1.1. Dryer

The inlet conveyor of the dryer was overhauled by the FTR workshop and has been installed.

1.2. Rotocell Extractor

The ancillary equipment, such as flow meter, multi channel recorder, steam regulator, etc. was checked by the supplier and put into service.
Different problems were observed with the hinged bottom plates of the rotocell extractor.
Some small tobacco particles passed through the slits of the bottom plates and caused clogging in the valves of the extract piping system.
This problem could be solved by fitting the bottom plates with a steel web of reduced slit size.
The extraction of RL was not possible with the modified bottom plates. The openings of the 20 mesh steel web were quickly blocked with dust and scraps.
Therefore we have to determine the optimal mesh size for the extraction of each type of feedstock material.
Furthermore it was noticed that the bottom plates did not close properly.
This problem will be solved soon.

2. LABORATORY

A Brookfield instrument was purchased to determine the viscosity of different liquids and slurries.

3. PERSONNEL

The new operator started work on January 5th and has nearly finished his training programme.

N. Lüthi, PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

NIL/sde
February 5th, 1981

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